# another boring pamphlet?

another boring callup.

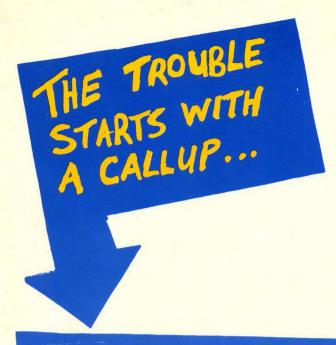




EEEE C C EEEEE

End Conscription Campaign

Issued by: The End Conscription C crimities, P.O. Box 208, Woodstock 7915, inned by: Esquire Press (Phyl Ltd., Vanguard Drive, Athlone Industria, Phone, 637-1260/1



A few weeks from now, many of us, our friends, class mates, brothers or lovers, will be called up to spend two years fighting in the SADF. Others are being called up for month-long camps.

"CALLED UP" means we have no choice, we are legally compelled to do two years of army, whether we like it or not.

We know that people have always considered the army a bust: Two years away from home, heavy P.T., short hair, discipline .... a bit "inconvenient", maybe, but, things are much heavier now, and many of us are terrified at the thought of finding ourselves shooting fellow South Africans in the townships and suburbs of our cities.

As members of the SA "Defence Force" we're told that we'll be defending our country from "foreign invaders" and "terrorists", but if you've read your newspapers recently, you'll know that the SADF has

been assisting the police in enforcing apartheid laws throughout the country. It seems that because its apartheid constitution has been rejected by the people of this land, the government has decided to use

its State of Emergency to force its will on the people. So we are being called up to help enforce these unjust laws...

The resistance of the people has been so determined, that more a more national servicemen are being used to help the police. And the government is trying to hide the actions of its forces by banning photo and press coverage in "unrest" areas... so now it becomes increasingly difficult for the public to know exactly what sort of role the SADF is playing. In recent weeks, kilometer's worth of SADF convoys have been operating in Crossroads, Guguletu and Athlone

Many of us feel concerned and worried about what is happening. We feel alienated from friends and parents in the white community, where life goes on as normal, but does that mean that we have to passively accept the situation? ECC believes not... as young people, we've got to challenge our elders. We have got to join the fight towards a peaceful, non-racial South Africa ... and our fight against the conscription law is an important one.

Those of us working on ECC believe that it is the RIGHT of each individual to decide if they are prepared to fight, and to put themself in a position where they could be forced to kill. We demand an end to conscription, and a right to choose.

With our country sliding deeper and deeper into civil war, it's not surprising that more and more people feel shaky about the future: wealthier friends check out options of emigration, College and Varsity graduates leave daily. But are these the best options???

Most of us want to Stay in South Africa, to be able to contribute and build up a better society. Our education, whether at school or varsity, has been paid for by the taxes of the working people of our land, and as young people we want to be able to put our new-found skills to work for the benefit of all. We don't want to "run away" to America or Australia, but we want the choice, to be able to do true "National Service" which can be of benefit to all South Africans.

## ADVICE BUREAU ON MILITARY CONSCRIPTION...

Are you worried about your callup? Having hassles with camps? Dont rely on rumours before you make any decisions.

There are people to talk to at the Advice Bureau on Military Conscription, who may be able to answer your questions.

Phone one of the contact numbers and arrange an interview. If necessary, you can be referred to someone else working on the Advice Bureau. There are lawyers, a psychologist, priests, and past conscientious objectors, who are all available for counselling.

Many people have used the Advice Bureau as a channel for talking about their problems about serving in the SADF. There is also information available about the possible alternatives to conscription.

Phone \* Anton 47-6274

\* Renee 69-9781

\* Sue 47-0519



Issued by: The End Conscription Committee, Athlone Industria, Property Ltd., Vanguard Drive, Ath

### DON'T BE FOOLED!

AS our country burns, many of us wonder if our place is in the fire. We are taught that as whites, we must stand up and defend against the "rioting" black mobs, but is it so simple?

Many young people are struggling with their identity as "white" South Africans. They feel that they too are Africans, and they are starting to explore the implications of that identity: whether in style, music, or ideas.

To quote a regte young jorler: "The guilt makes them (white kids) search for a new identity. They don't want to identify with the guilty parties. Like my younger sister, checks out the news, and there's heavy shooting happening, people throwing stones and being shot down. She check's her stepfather's reaction, "Bloody Kaffirs", and she skeems "shame!", she sees the people's suffering, so now she's in limbo, because where does SHE stand? She's at high school, a white girl, and what does she identify with?"

Guilt and alienation can be pretty destructive. It seems that young people turn their backs on their parents, yet they're unable to slot in easily with the "black" culture which they see as "the other side". So endless jorl and dop and skyf help provide middle ground....

A lot of us are scared of going into black or coloured areas. TV footage of burnings and stonings don't help much, but does that mean that we're destined within the white reality only?

It's not good enough just to be cool and listen to Reggae and Hotstix. We all want peace and harmony, but we've got to work for it. We must educate ourselves about conditions in our country. When there are public meetings and focusses, we can't afford to wait and see which of our friends go—we must take up the challenge. We need to look at every opportunity to work for the changes which the oppressed people want, and prepare ourselves for a life in Africa.

The possibilities were illustrated recently when a handful of whiteys went through to a Guguletu funeral. For sure there was a little bit of nervousness, but out of the 20.000 crowd, there was nothing but friendship towards us. We knew the songs, sang them, and felt them. We saw people we knew, friends from jorls, political acquaintances, old mamas, and nervous toddlers who couldn't understand who these whiteys were that didn't carry guns.

Marching back from the funeral, I paused at the roadside. Before me, thousands of black fists raised in the air, shouting, chanting. Standing in my shoes, I realized that what I was seeing would probably instill the greatest fear in most white people: images of looting, burning, and anti-white rampaging. The worst nightmares of white paranoia!

I was horrified as I realized just how much the average whitey fears. And I was just fine! Somebody else might have run, or reached for a gun, just because of the ingrained fear. They'd see themselves as on "the other side", and try to jump the fence... probably never make it, either.

The only danger came in the form of Caspirs and Police vans, firing teargas and rubber bullets as people made their way home. We marvalled at the frindliness and acceptance from people who had experienced so much brutality, and sneaked out of Guguletu.

Back at Sea Point it had been a nice beach day, and evening braais were flaming a warm evening. I realized that I was probably the only white person in that suburb who knew what was going on in another part of town.

I could swear that the press reports which I read the next day described a completely different sequence of events to that which I had witnessed. I realized that Guguletu had been sealed off to most of the press, and most of the only accounts were those carried in official "police position reports". I realized that most people would be fooled, and would have little chance of knowing the truth.

I've got it together to write this story, mainly coz I hope it can illustrate just how false the images are which we are presented with. It's not always possible to run out to the nearest township to find out the truth, but by working in progressive organizations, by being a part of the struggle, you will develop an understanding, and contacts with people which will inform your understanding.

Maybe the most important message is to realize that it's not just as simple as Black vs White. There are black exploiters, like homeland "leaders" Sebe and Matanzima, and there are white progressives, like Beyers Naude and Helen Joseph. Even Nelson Mandela said from prison, that South Africa is one country in Africa where whites belong. Our future is NOT in the sea!

South African politics are bloody complex, which means most people fall easy victim to media distortion. Educate yourself, and choose a side. This is no time to be fooled.



**Collection Number: AG1977** 

### **END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)**

### **PUBLISHER:**

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive Location:- Johannesburg ©2013

### **LEGAL NOTICES:**

**Copyright Notice:** All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

**Disclaimer and Terms of Use:** Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a collection held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.